

Application No.: 10/725,601
Examiner: Lewis, K. C.
Art Unit: 3772

REMARKS

Prompt and favorable allowance of the pending claims in the application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

In the amendment to the claims, claim 12 is currently amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 14. The rejection of claim 12 and the claims dependent thereon is considered moot in view of the amendment to claim 12.

New claim 26 is amended with the subject matter of claim 12 and the allowable subject matter of claim 17. It will be pointed out that the limitation in previously amended claim 12, "wherein the adhesive layer is generally apertured," is not in claim 26 since it may conflict with the allowable matter of claim 17. This claim is considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 14, 16 and 17 are presently cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-10 are allowed.

As a result of the amendment to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicant's attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176
Phone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

Date: April 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



JUSTIN J. CASSELL
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,205